

i8o COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

attacks on the French Channel ports and
raids on the
French coasts. For William the war was at
the beginning
a military war and the fleet was kept
subsidiary to the
military operations. The fifth year of the war
was starting
before William discovered the power which
the English
navy gave him. The concentration of the
French fleet
under Tourville and d'Estrees in the
Mediterranean, In
1693, opened his eyes ; In May 1694 he
resolved to send
Russell and the main English fleet there. This
resolution
was entirely the King's own ; he took all the
responsibility
on his own shoulders. His too was the
resolution to keep
the fleet out during the winter of 1694-1695
instead of
letting it return home as usual. The King's
own Council
was afraid of such a new departure. *I do not
know if I
rightly comprehend/ he wrote to Shrewsbury
on August 2,
1694,

but It appears that the Committee are of
opinion that
Admiral Russell should winter at Cadiz, but
dare not
declare that opinion, through fear of being
responsible for
the event, I do wish that they had spoken
more clearly on
this occasion, and Indeed they ought to have
done, so as to
prevent any being exposed to the supposition
of acting
solely from my own opinion. But as there is no
time to
deliberate^ I am reduced to the necessity of
coming to
some determination^ and I have
accordingly resolved

to order Admiral Russell to winter with his whole squadron at Cadiz.¹

William saw that the orders were so positive that they left Russell no discretion in the matter. For that admiral was opposed to the King's strategy, and hated the idea of being kept in the Mediterranean. He lamented loudly and talked about putting * an end to a troublesome life ³.

¹ Corbett, England in the Mediterranean, ii. 169.